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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON
ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
Third session
Geneva, 12 August-4 September 1991
Item 1 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Annotated provisional agenda

Section I of the present document contains the provisional agenda for the third session, as approved by the Preparatory Committee at its second session (decision 2/23), the annotations to the provisional agenda and the proposed programme of work of the Preparatory Committee. Section II contains the provisional agenda for the third session of Working Group I, as approved by the Preparatory Committee at its second session (decision 2/12), the annotations to the provisional agenda and the proposed programme of work of the Group. Section III contains the provisional agenda for the third session of Working Group II, as approved by the Preparatory Committee at its second session (decision 2/19), the annotations to the provisional agenda and the proposed programme of work of the Group. Section IV contains the provisional agenda for the second session of Working Group III, as approved by the Preparatory Committee at its second session (decision 2/21), the annotations to the provisional agenda and the proposed programme of work of the Group.

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I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE THIRD SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

A. Provisional agenda of the Preparatory Committee

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. Preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development on the basis of General Assembly resolution 44/228 and taking into account other relevant General Assembly resolutions:

   (a) Activities of the Conference secretariat;

   (b) Recent actions of intergovernmental and other bodies of relevance to the preparatory process;

   (c) Cross-sectoral issues;

   (d) Provisional agenda, organization of work and provisional rules of procedure of the Conference;

   (e) Reports of the Working Groups.

3. Arrangements for future sessions of the Preparatory Committee.

4. Provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee.

5. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee.

Annotations

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

By resolution 44/228, the General Assembly decided to convene the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 in Brazil and, inter alia, to establish the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies, with the participation of observers, in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly. It further decided that the Preparatory Committee should hold its third session at Geneva.

At its second session, held at Geneva from 18 March to 5 April 1991, the Preparatory Committee adopted the provisional agenda for its third session (decision 2/23). At the same session, the Preparatory Committee decided that its third session should be held from 12 August to 4 September 1991, with the first 10 working days devoted to the work of the three Working Groups and the last eight working days devoted to the consideration of plenary items, in particular cross-sectoral issues (decision 2/22).

At its organizational session, held from 5 to 16 March 1990 at United Nations Headquarters, the Preparatory Committee elected Tommy Koh (Singapore) Chairman of the Committee. It elected the following 39 States Vice-Chairman:

Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Barbados, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Djibouti, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mexico, Mozambique, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Senegal, Sweden, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zambia.

The Preparatory Committee also designated Brazil to serve as an ex officio Vice-Chairman in accordance with section II, paragraph 4, of General Assembly resolution 44/228. At the same session, the Committee elected Ahmed Djoghlaf (Algeria) Rapporteur.

At its second session, the Preparatory Committee elected Norway and the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic as Vice-Chairmen, following the resignation of Sweden and Czechoslovakia.

At its organizational session, the Preparatory Committee decided to establish two open-ended working groups which would meet in conjunction with the substantive sessions of the Committee, at the same venue, and submit progress reports to the Committee on their work. Each of the working groups would assist the Preparatory Committee in fulfilling its mandate in accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/228 and other relevant General Assembly resolutions.

At its first session, the Preparatory Committee elected Bo Kjellén (Sweden) Chairman of Working Group I and Bukar Shaib (Nigeria) Chairman of Working Group II. It decided that the Chairmen of the two Working Groups would serve as ex officio members of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee.

At its organizational session, the Preparatory Committee decided to deal, in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of General Assembly resolution 44/228, with legal, institutional and all related matters in an open-ended working group to be set up at an appropriate time (see A/44/48, para. 56).

At its first session, the Preparatory Committee requested its Chairman, with the assistance of the Secretary-General of the Conference, to conduct consultations with delegations during the inter-sessional period on the terms of reference and timing for the commencement of the work of Working Group III on legal, institutional and all related matters (decision 1/26, para. 1). It requested the Secretary-General of the Conference, in the light of the outcome of the consultations, to submit a report, with appropriate recommendations, including draft terms of reference, to the Preparatory Committee early in the second session, with a view to enabling the Committee to take the necessary action on the matter (decision 1/26, para. 2).

At its second session, the Preparatory Committee adopted decision 2/3 on the establishment of Working Group III on legal, institutional and all related matters, which, inter alia, set out the terms of reference of the Working Group and directed it to start its work during the second session. At the same session, the Preparatory Committee elected Bedrich Moldan (Czechoslovakia) Chairman of Working Group III. It also decided that he would serve as an ex officio member of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee.

At its organizational session, the Preparatory Committee adopted a resolution on the organization of its work, in which it stressed that environmental and developmental issues should be dealt with in an integrated manner, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 44/228.

With regard to the conduct of business of the Preparatory Committee, it may be recalled that rule 161 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly provides that "the rules relating to the procedure of committees of the General Assembly, as well as rules 45 and 60, shall apply to the procedure of any subsidiary organ unless the Assembly or the subsidiary organ decides otherwise". Accordingly, the proceedings of the Preparatory Committee are governed by rule 161.

At its first session, the Preparatory Committee adopted decision 1/1 on the role of non-governmental organizations in the preparatory process for the Conference. In resolution 45/211, the General Assembly, inter alia, took note of the provisions of decision 1/1 and authorized the Preparatory Committee, without prejudice to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 44/228, to continue to apply, for the purpose of the preparatory process, the provisional arrangements agreed upon in that decision concerning the participation of non-governmental organizations in the preparatory process.

Also in decision 1/1, the Preparatory Committee decided that the Chairman would, with the assistance of the chairmen of the regional groups, other coordinating groups and the secretariat, propose a procedure for determining non-governmental organizations' competence and relevance to the work of the Committee.

At its second session, the Preparatory Committee decided on a procedure for determining non-governmental organizations' competence and relevance to the work of the Preparatory Committee (decision 2/1). In decision 2/2, the Preparatory Committee decided to approve 190 non-governmental organizations for accreditation. Notwithstanding the provisions of decision 2/22, the plenary of the Preparatory Committee may need to meet during the first week of the session to consider a list of additional non-governmental organizations being proposed for accreditation.

Opening of the session, meeting rooms and registration

The third session of the Preparatory Committee will open at 10 a.m. on Monday, 12 August 1991, at the Palais des Nations, Geneva. In accordance with decision 2/22, the Working Groups will meet first, followed by plenary meetings of the Preparatory Committee. Meetings of Working Group I will take

place in Conference Room XVIII, meetings of Working Group II in Conference Room XVII and meetings of Working Group III in Conference Room XIX. Plenary meetings of the Preparatory Committee will be held in Conference Room XIX. The registration booth will be located at door 40, second mezzanine.

Item 2. Preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development on the basis of General Assembly resolution 44/228 and taking into account other relevant General Assembly resolutions

The Preparatory Committee will have before it the progress report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on decisions taken by the Preparatory Committee at its second session.

(a) Activities of the Conference secretariat

The Preparatory Committee will have before it the report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the activities of the Conference secretariat. In decision 2/5, the Preparatory Committee requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to continue to develop his proposals on agenda 21 for discussion at its third session, taking into account the views expressed in the discussion and the conclusions of the regional preparatory conferences.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the activities of the Conference secretariat (A/CONF.151/PC/41)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the structure and organization of agenda 21 (A/CONF.151/PC/42)

(b) Recent actions of intergovernmental and other bodies of relevance to the preparatory process

The Preparatory Committee will be provided with information on recent actions taken by intergovernmental bodies within the United Nations system and on other intergovernmental meetings of relevance to the work of the Preparatory Committee.

Documentation

Note by the secretariat transmitting part A of resolution 1 (XI) adopted by the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development at its eleventh session (A/CONF.151/PC/40)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference containing a summary of recommendations of regional preparatory meetings (A/CONF.151/PC/43)

Note by the Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/210 on environment and international trade (A/CONF.151/PC/47)

(c) Cross-sectoral issues

At its second session, the Preparatory Committee requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to continue to develop his reports and proposals for discussion at its third session, taking into account General Assembly resolution 44/228 and relevant decisions of the Preparatory Committee, in particular decisions 1/8, 1/9, 1/18, 1/25, 1/28 and 1/29, adopted at its first session, the views expressed in the discussion and the conclusions of the regional preparatory conferences (decision 2/6).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the relationship between poverty and environmental degradation (A/CONF.151/PC/44)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the relationship between demographic pressures, unsustainable consumption patterns, lack of growth and environmental degradation (A/CONF.151/PC.45)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the international economy and the environment (A/CONF.151/PC/46)

Progress report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on integrated economic-environmental accounting (A/CONF.151/PC/48)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on economic instruments (A/CONF.151/PC/49)

Progress report of the Secretary-General of the Conference concerning financial resources (A/CONF.151/PC/50)

Progress report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on science for sustainable development (A/CONF.151/PC/51)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on transfer of technology (A/CONF.151/PC/52)

Report on environmental health aspects of development (A/CONF.151/PC/53)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on education, training and awareness for sustainable development (A/CONF.151/PC/54)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on human settlements (A/CONF.151/PC/55)

(d) Provisional agenda, organization of work and provisional rules of procedure of the Conference

The Preparatory Committee will have before it the provisional agenda, organization of work and provisional rules of procedure of the Conference.

Documentation

Draft provisional agenda, organization of work and provisional rules of procedure of the Conference (A/CONF.151/PC/56)

(e) Reports of the Working Groups

In the resolution adopted by the Preparatory Committee at its organizational session (see A/44/48, para. 56), the Preparatory Committee decided, inter alia, that the Working Groups should submit progress reports to the Committee on their ongoing work.

The Preparatory Committee will have before it the reports of Working Groups I, II and III.

Item 3. Arangements for future sessions of the Preparatory Committee

In resolution 44/228, the General Assembly decided that the Preparatory Committee should hold an organizational session of two weeks' duration in March 1990 and a final session, both at United Nations Headquarters, and three additional substantive sessions, the first at Nairobi and the following two at Geneva, the timing and duration of which should be determined by the Preparatory Committee.

At its second session, the Preparatory Committee approved provisionally the dates of 9 March to 3 April 1992 for its fourth (final) session, to be held at United Nations Headquarters.

Item 4. Provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee

The Preparatory Committee will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its fourth session.

Item 5. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee

The Preparatory Committee may wish to submit the report on its third session to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

B. Proposed programme of work of the Preparatory Committee

Week of 26-30 August

Monday, 26 August

10 a.m.	Item 1	Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
	Item 2 (a)	Preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development on the basis of General Assembly resolution 44/228 and taking into account other relevant General Assembly resolutions: activities of the Conference secretariat

Item 2 (b) Preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development on the basis of General Assembly resolution 44/228 and taking into account other relevant General Assembly resolutions: recent actions of intergovernmental and other bodies of relevance to the preparatory process

Tuesday, 27 August

a.m. Item 2 (a) Continued

Item 2 (b) Continued

Item 2 (c) Preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development on the basis of General Assembly resolution 44/228 and taking into account other relevant General Assembly resolutions: cross-sectoral issues

Wednesday, 28 August

a.m. Item 2 (c) Continued

Thursday, 29 August

a.m. Item 2 (c) Continued

p.m. Item 2 (c) Continued

Friday, 30 August

a.m. Item 2 (c) Continued

p.m. Item 2 (c) Continued

Week of 2-4 September

Monday, 2 September

a.m. Item 2 (d) Provisional agenda, organization of work and provisional rules of procedure of the Conference

p.m. Informal consultations

Tuesday, 3 September

a.m. Informal consultations

p.m. Informal consultations

Wednesday, 4 September

a.m.		Informal consultations
p.m.		Action on outstanding draft proposals
	Item 2 (e)	Reports of the Working Groups
	Item 3	Arrangements for future sessions of the Preparatory Committee
	Item 4	Provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee
	Item 5	Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee

II. PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK OF WORKING GROUP I

A. Provisional agenda of Working Group I

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. Protection of the atmosphere:

   (a) Climate change;

   (b) Ozone depletion;

   (c) Transboundary air pollution.

3. Land resources:

   (a) Deforestation;

   (b) Soil loss;

   (c) Desertification and drought.

4. Conservation of biological diversity.

5. Environmentally sound management of biotechnology.

6. Provisional agenda for the fourth session of Working Group I.

7. Adoption of the report of Working Group I.

Annotations

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

By decision 2/12 of 5 April 1991, the Preparatory Committee approved the draft provisional agenda for the third session of Working Group I, in accordance with the resolution adopted by the Preparatory Committee at its organizational session, in particular paragraphs 8 and 9 (see A/44/48, para. 56).

The Bureau of Working Group I comprises the following officers: Chairman: Bo Kjellén (Sweden); Vice-Chairmen: Shinichi Isashiki (Japan), Charles A. Liburd (Guyana) and Mohamed Mahmoud Ould El Ghaouth (Mauritania); Rapporteur: Gantcho Gantchev (Bulgaria).

Item 2. Protection of the atmosphere

(a) Climate change

By decision 2/8 of 5 April 1991, the Preparatory Committee:

(a) Requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to continue his efforts to follow the work to estimate the cost, in particular to developing

countries, of adopting measures to limit possible climate change and mitigate its adverse effects, and to report his conclusions to the Preparatory Committee at its third session;

(b) Requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to identify ways and means for ensuring funding and technology in accordance with the principles embodied in General Assembly resolutions 44/207 and 44/228, both of 22 December 1989;

(c) Requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to continue to monitor the major intergovernmental activities in the area of atmosphere and climate change, and to prepare a report that analysed and summarized those activities and offered suggestions thereon;

(d) Requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to investigate further the interconnections between the issue of climate and environmental and developmental issues at national, regional and global levels, covering agriculture, biodiversity, energy, forests, industry, oceans, transport and cross-sectoral issues, and to report to the Preparatory Committee at its third session, in order to enable it to consider at that session the preparation of related proposals for discussion at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

(e) Requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to continue to undertake all the above in full cooperation with the relevant bodies of the United Nations, in particular with the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the biodiversity negotiating forum, in order to avoid duplicating or pre-empting the work of those bodies.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on climate change (A/CONF.151/PC/57)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference entitled "Protection of the atmosphere: sectoral issues" (A/CONF.151/PC/60)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference entitled "Protection of the atmosphere: options for agenda 21" (A/CONF.151/PC/42/Add.1)

(b) Ozone depletion

By decision 1/12 of 30 August 1990, the Preparatory Committee:

(a) Requested the secretariat of the Conference to cooperate with the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization in evaluating the need for any additional action to be taken by the Preparatory Committee to support the ongoing work within the framework of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, and requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to report on that question to the Preparatory Committee at its third session;

(b) Requested the Secretary-General of the Conference, in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme, to report to the Preparatory Committee on the effectiveness of the implementation of the provisions relating to financial cooperation and transfer of technology to developing countries of the Montreal Protocol, as amended by the Second Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, held in London from 27 to 29 June 1990.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference entitled "Protection of the atmosphere: ozone depletion" (A/CONF.151/PC/58)

(c) Transboundary air pollution

By decision 1/13 of 30 August 1990, the Preparatory Committee requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to prepare for the third session of the Preparatory Committee a report on the subject of transboundary air pollution, stressing that international cooperation was needed to enable developing countries to monitor and assess transboundary air pollution effectively, therefore, the report should address the technology transfer, training and additional financial resources that could be required to achieve that objective.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference entitled "Protection of the atmosphere: transboundary air pollution" (A/CONF.151/PC/59)

Item 3. Land resources

(a) Deforestation

By decision 2/13 of 5 April 1991, the Preparatory Committee, having noted that there were currently ongoing negotiations on biological diversity and climate change conventions that would address inter alia, forestry issues linked to those negotiations, requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to re-examine the work of the Conference on document A/CONF.151/PC/27, in line with decision 1/14 of the Preparatory Committee, taking into consideration the various submissions made during the meetings of Working Group I and the Ad Hoc Subgroup on Forests, and as fully and as comprehensively as possible analyse and address inter alia:

(a) The historical loss of boreal, temperate, subtropical and tropical forest worldwide, its causes and its contribution to global environmental degradation;

(b) Recent initiatives in the management, conservation and sustainable development of forests;

(c) The roles of forests in relation to soil and water conservation and socio-economic development in providing food security and domestic energy, eradicating poverty and raising standards of living and quality of life at the local and national levels;

(d) Suggestions regarding details of the requirements of funds and funding mechanisms;

(e) Analysis and quantification of the respective economic values of boreal, temperate, subtropical and tropical forests in terms of timber and forest produce; watershed protection; flood prevention and control; soil protection and conservation; sanctuary and habitats for wildlife; recreation and eco-tourism; repositories for genetic resources; carbon and heat sinks; sources of fuel wood for developing countries; and food and other basic needs of forest dwellers and local communities;

(f) The current levels and structure of world trade in timber and timber products;

(g) The important role that women, especially in developing countries, play in the conservation and sustainable development of forests and other land resources;

(h) The items in the synoptic list compiled by the secretariat will also be reported with suggestions for development-oriented action for reforestation and afforestation;

(i) The interlinkages with work on climate change and biodiversity.

In the light of the foregoing, the following principles, among others, were outlined for further consideration by the Preparatory Committee at its third session:

(a) The need to reaffirm principle 21 of the Stockholm Declaration, including sovereignty of States over their natural resources and to recognize that forests include areas under permanent vegetative cover, ecosystems and human settlements and the States have the right to develop them in accordance with their needs and level of socio-economic development, including the need to convert some of these areas for other uses in their overall socio-economic development based on rational land-use policies;

(b) All types of forests play a major role in economic development, including subsistence needs in developing countries;

(c) All types of forests play a major role in maintaining the ecological balance at local, national, regional and global levels;

(d) All types of forests perform a wide range of social functions, including for forest dwellers, local communities and indigenous people who use and sustain forest resources and systems;

(e) These must be balanced to ensure that forests continue to play multiple roles in a sustainable manner;

(f) It is necessary to address issues crucial to sustainable development, including:

(i) The need to assess the cost, particularly for developing countries, involved in combating deforestation, and to identify ways and means for ensuring funding and technology consistent with General Assembly resolution 44/228 with a view to fulfilling the objectives of the Conference, in particular those stipulated in section I, paragraph 15 (j), (k), (l) and (m) of that resolution;

(ii) The need to assist developing countries with poor vegetative cover to launch and sustain afforestation and reforestation programmes with long-term objectives;

(iii) Technology transfer, including research and dissemination of information, training and joint development of projects;

(iv) Supportive national social, economic and environmental policies aimed at the protection, sustainable development and use of forests;

(v) Supportive international economic environment which promotes growth and development through various ways such as market access, terms of trade, addressing efficiently and urgently debt problems and alleviation of poverty;

(g) It is also necessary to address the interlinkages and harmonization of activities between forests, climate change and biodiversity.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on forests: background (A/CONF.151/PC/64)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on forests: principles (A/CONF.151/PC/65)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on forests: options for agenda 21 (A/CONF.151/PC/42/Add.3)

(b) Soil loss

By decision 2/11 of 5 April 1991, the Preparatory Committee

(a) requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to develop proposals for the development of an integrated approach to the protection and management of land resources and for alternative sustainable systems of production in greater depth for the third session of the Preparatory Committee, paying particular attention to (i) developmental aspects; (ii) economic and social dimensions, including land tenure; (iii) resources and financial aspects; and (iv) popular participation, in particular, the participation of women;

(b) Also requested the Secretary-General of the Conference of the United Nations to present the results of the Food and Agriculture Organization Netherland Conference on Agriculture and Environment to it at its third session;

(c) Requested the Secretary-General of the Conference, in collaboration with relevant international organizations, to prepare a report on the role of financing institutions in the development of sustainable agriculture.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference entitled "Protection and management of land resources: the elements of an integrated approach" (A/CONF.151/PC/63)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference entitled "Protection and management of land resources: options for agenda 21" (A/CONF.151/PC/42/Add.2.)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference entitled "Protection and management of land resources: agriculture, environment and development" (A/CONF.151/PC/61)

(c) Desertification and drought

By decision 1/15 of 30 August 1990, section II, the Preparatory Committee:

(a) Invited the United Nations Environment Programme to implement urgently the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 44/172 A, paragraphs 6 and 7, and 44/172 B concerning the progress achieved in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

(b) Requested the Secretary-General of the Conference, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, the World Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other appropriate regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to report to the Preparatory Committee at its third session on the results achieved, the control measures applied and the financial and technical support given in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and the need for further international cooperation that might be required in combating drought and desertification;

(c) Requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to follow closely the drought monitoring and research activities currently being undertaken by the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant organizations, including the Sahel-Sahara Observatory, and to report to the Preparatory Committee at its third session on the status of such activities and make recommendations on how the Preparatory Committee could support those very important initiatives;

(d) Also requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to prepare a comprehensive study on ways and means of expanding reforestation activities to combat land degradation and desertification.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on desertification (A/CONF.151/PC/62)

Item 4. Conservation of biological diversity

By decision 2/9 of 5 April 1991, the Preparatory Committee:

(a) Requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to investigate further and to report to the Preparatory Committee at its third session on the operational requirements for the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources and on the relationships between biological diversity and relevant aspects of biotechnology; climate change; and forests. The work should take into account the views of the Preparatory Committee on cross-sectoral issues related, in particular, to environment and development, the elimination of poverty, and the transfer of financial resources and of technology, including biotechnology. Care should be taken not to duplicate or pre-empt the negotiations on a convention on biological diversity;

(b) Also requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to report on the progress of the negotiations on a convention on biological diversity in order to enable the Preparatory Committee to make appropriate comments or inputs thereon at its third session.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference entitled "Conservation of biological diversity: background and issues" (A/CONF.151/PC/66)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference entitled "Conservation of biological diversity: options for agenda 21" (A/CONF.151/PC/42/Add.4)

Item 5. Environmentally sound management of biotechnology

By resolution 1/17 of 30 August 1990, the Preparatory Committee requested the Secretary-General of the Conference:

(a) To follow closely the progress in the work undertaken by the UNIDO/UNEP/WHO/FAO informal working group on safety in biotechnology, as well as that of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development and other relevant international organizations, with a view to expediting the elaboration of basic guidelines on safety in biotechnology and facilitating the preparation of an international code of conduct, taking into account, inter alia, the work of the Sub-Working Group on Biotechnology set up by the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Biological Diversity at its third session in July 1990, and to submit a report to the Preparatory Committee at its third session on the progress of the work;

(b) To report on progress in the deliberations within the framework of the ongoing work of the United Nations Environment Programme on an international legal instrument on biological diversity;

(c) To prepare for the third session of the Preparatory Committee a report on the methodologies and procedures that could be used internationally to assess biotechnology risks, inter alia, to human health and the environment and the impact on socio-economic conditions;

(d) To prepare for the third session of the Preparatory Committee a report on the role of the private sector, particularly the role of transnational corporations, in promoting, applying and transferring biotechnology, in consultation with the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations and other relevant international bodies.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference entitled "Environmentally sound management of biotechnology: background and issues" (A/CONF.151/PC/67)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference entitled "Biotechnology: options for agenda 21" (A/CONF.151/PC/42/Add.5)

Item 6. Provisional agenda for the fourth session of Working Group I

The Working Group will have before it a note by the secretariat on the draft provisional agenda for its fourth session.

Item 7. Adoption of the report of Working Group I

The Working Group will submit a report to the Preparatory Committee.

B. Proposed programme of work of Working Group I

Week of 12-16 August

Monday, 12 August

a.m.	Item 1	Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
	Item 2	Protection of the atmosphere
p.m.	Item 2	Continued

Tuesday, 13 August

a.m./p.m.	Item 2	Informal consultations

Wednesday, 14 August

a.m./p.m.	Item 3	Land resources

Thursday, 15 August		
a.m./p.m.	Item 3	Continued
Friday, 16 August		
a.m./p.m.	Item 3	Informal consultations
Week of 19-23 August		
Monday, 19 August		
		No meeting
Tuesday, 20 August		
a.m.	Item 4	Conservation of biological diversity
	Item 5	Environmentally sound management of biotechnology
Wednesday, 21 August		
a.m.	Item 4	Continued
	Item 5	Continued
Thursday, 22 August		
a.m.	Item 4	Informal consultations
	Item 5	Informal consultations
Friday, 23 August		
a.m.	Item 6	Provisional agenda for the fourth session of Working Group I
	Item 7	Adoption of the report of Working Group I

III. PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK OF WORKING GROUP II

A. Provisional agenda of Working Group II

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. Protection of the oceans and all kinds of seas, including enclosed and semi-enclosed seas, and coastal areas and the protection, rational use and development of their living resources.

3. Protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources: application of integrated approaches to the development, management and use of water resources.

4. Environmentally sound management of wastes, particularly hazardous wastes, and of toxic chemicals, as well as prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes:

   (a) Environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes;

   (b) Environmentally sound management of solid wastes and sewage-related issues;

   (c) Environmentally sound management of radioactive wastes;

   (d) Environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals;

   (e) Prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes.

5. Provisional agenda for the fourth session of Working Group II.

6. Adoption of the report of Working Group II.

Annotations

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

By decision 2/19 of 5 April 1991, the Preparatory Committee approved the draft provisional agenda for the third session of Working Group II, in accordance with the resolution adopted by the Preparatory Committee at its organizational session, in particular paragraphs 8 and 9 (see A/44/48, para. 56).

The Bureau of Working Group II comprises the following officers: Chairman: Bukar Shaib (Nigeria); Vice-Chairmen: Vincent Sanchez (Chile), Joke Waller-Hunter (Netherlands), Andrey Czyz (Poland); Rapporteur: Hussein Haniff (Malaysia).

Item 2. Protection of the oceans and all kinds of seas, including enclosed and semi-enclosed seas, and coastal areas and the protection, rational use and development of their living resources

By decision 2/18 of 5 April 1991, the Preparatory Committee requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to complete the comprehensive report envisaged for its third session and to elaborate the potential areas for action proposed in the progress report (A/CONF.151/PC/30 and Corr.1). In preparing the report, the Secretary-General should take fully into account the provisions of the Preparatory Committee in its decision 1/20 of 31 August 1990 and ensure their full and complete implementation. He should draw in particular upon the views of delegations and others expressed in consideration of this issue during the second session of the Committee, and should also take into account, inter alia, decision 2/18, paragraphs 1 (a) to 1 (i).

In addition, the Preparatory Committee, concerned about the continued severe ecological damage in the sea area of the Regional Organization for Protection of the Mediterranean Environment, recognized with appreciation the efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Maritime Organization, and other relevant United Nations, regional and local organizations involved in the mitigation and minimization of the recent environmental impacts in the region within their respective areas of competence, and urged them to continue their good efforts to assess and counter the possible long-term environmental effects on the region and the world at large, and requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to follow the matter closely with the interested organizations and report to the Preparatory Committee at its third session.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference entitled "Oceans: mechanisms for capacity building, international institutions and legal instruments" (A/CONF.151/PC/68)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on coastal development and enclosed seas, marine pollution, living marine resources, and impacts on the oceans of climate change (A/CONF.151/PC/69)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference entitled "Protection of the oceans and all kinds of seas, including enclosed and semi-enclosed seas and coastal areas and the protection, rational use and development of their living resources: options for agenda 21" (A/CONF.151/PC/42/Add.6)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on a global ocean observing system (A/CONF.151/PC/70)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on land-based sources of marine pollution (A/CONF.151/PC/71)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference containing an environmental assessment of the Gulf crisis (A/CONF.151/PC/72)

Item 3. Protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources: application of integrated approaches to the development, management and use of water resources

By decision 2/20 of 5 April 1991, the Preparatory Committee requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to prepare for its third session a report on progress achieved in the preparations for the International Conference on Water and the Environment, to be attended by government-designated experts and held at Dublin in January 1992. The Preparatory Committee requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to identify the main elements of an action programme, including an implementation plan, which could be reviewed for use as a basis for agenda 21.

In preparing his report, the Secretary-General of the Conference should take into account, inter alia, decision 2/20, paragraphs 2 (a) to 2 (w).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on preparations for the International Conference on Water and the Environment (A/CONF.151/PC/73)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference entitled "Freshwater: options for agenda 21" (A/CONF.151/PC/42/Add.7)

Item 4. Environmentally sound management of wastes, particularly hazardous wastes, and of toxic chemicals, as well as prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes

(a) Environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes

(b) Environmentally sound management of solid wastes and sewage-related issues

(c) Environmentally sound management of radioactive wastes

(d) Environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals

(e) Prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes

By decision 2/14 of 5 April 1991, the Preparatory Committee took note of the progress report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on environmentally sound management of wastes, particularly hazardous wastes (A/CONF.151/PC/34) and of the proposed areas of action contained therein and requested the Secretary-General of the Conference, in close cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme, other relevant United Nations bodies, regional organizations and commissions and other international organizations concerned, to elaborate further on the areas identified and report thereon to the Preparatory Committee at its third session. In preparing his report, the Secretary-General should take into account, inter alia, decision 2/14, paragraphs 2 (a) to 2 (q).

The Preparatory Committee agreed that the potential areas for action elaborated upon during its second session also provided a basis for input into the outcome of the 1992 Conference. The Preparatory Committee requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to develop this input and report to it thereon at its third session.

By decision 2/16 of 5 April 1991, the Preparatory Committee requested the Secretary-General of the Conference in close cooperation with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the World Health Organization and other United Nations organizations, to elaborate for its third session the potential areas for action proposed in his progress report (A/CONF.151/PC/34), which would form the framework of an international strategy for the environmentally sound management of solid wastes and sewage. In preparing his report the Secretary-General should take into account, inter alia, decision 2/16, paragraphs (a) to (m).

By decision 2/17 of 5 April 1991, the Preparatory Committee requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to elaborate for its third session, the potential areas for action proposed in his progress report (A/CONF.151/PC/35), which would form the framework for an international strategy for environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals. In elaborating the potential areas of action, the Secretary-General of the Conference should take into account, inter alia, decision 2/17, paragraphs 2 (a) to 2 (w).

The Preparatory Committee also invited the World Health Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme and the International Labour Organisation, within the framework of the International Programme on Chemical Safety, in cooperation with the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations and other relevant organizations, to report on ongoing work, carried out through appropriate government expert meetings, concerning possible proposals for an intergovernmental mechanism for chemical risk assessment and management.

By decision 2/15 of 5 April 1991, the Preparatory Committee took note of the summary progress report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on decisions taken by the Preparatory Committee at its first session (A/CONF.151/PC/20) as it pertained to decision 1/22, section III, on illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes.

The Preparatory Committee also requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to bring to its attention any further information on the subject that might become available from the United Nations Environment Programme and the regional commissions, as set forth in General Assembly resolution 44/226.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes (A/CONF.151/PC/75)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference entitled "Environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes: options for agenda 21" (A/CONF.151/PC/42/Add.9)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on solid wastes (A/CONF.151/PC/76)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference entitled "Environmentally sound management of solid wastes: options for agenda 21" (A/CONF.151/PC/42/Add.10)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals (A/CONF.151/PC/74)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conferenc entitled "Environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals: options for agenda 21" (A/CONF.151/PC/42/Add.8)

Item 5. Provisional agenda for the fourth session of Working Group II

The Working Group will have before it a note by the secretariat on the draft provisional agenda for its fourth session.

Item 6. Adoption of the report of Working Group II

The Working Group will submit a report to the Preparatory Committee.

B. Proposed programme of work of Working Group II

Week of 12-16 August

Monday, 12 August

a.m.		Meeting of the Bureau
p.m.	Item 1	Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
	Item 2	Protection of the oceans and all kinds of seas, including enclosed and semi-enclosed seas, and coastal areas and the protection, rational use and development of their living resources

Tuesday, 13 August

a.m.	Item 2	Continued
p.m.		Informal consultations

Wednesday, 14 August

a.m.	Item 3	Protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources: application of integrated approaches to the development, management and use of water resources
p.m.	Item 3	Continued

Thursday, 15 August

a.m.	Item 4 (a)	Environmentally sound management of wastes, particularly hazardous wastes, and of toxic chemicals, as well as prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes: environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes
p.m.	Item 4 (a)	Continued

Friday, 16 August

a.m.	Item 4 (b)	Environmentally sound management of wastes, particularly hazardous wastes, and of toxic chemicals, as well as prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes: environmentally sound management of solid wastes and sewage-related issues
p.m.	Item 4 (c)	Environmentally sound management of wastes, particularly hazardous wastes, and of toxic chemicals, as well as prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes: environmentally sound management of radioactive wastes

Week of 19-23 August

Monday, 19 August

p.m.	Item 4 (d)	Environmentally sound management of wastes, particularly hazardous wastes, and of toxic chemicals, as well as prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes: environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals

Tuesday, 20 August		
p.m.		Informal consultations
Wednesday, 21 August		
p.m.	Item 4 (e)	Environmentally sound management of wastes, particularly hazardous wastes, and of toxic chemicals, as well as prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes: prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes
Thursday, 22 August		
p.m.		Informal consultations
Friday, 23 August		
p.m.	Item 5	Provisional agenda for the fourth session of Working Group II
	Item 6	Adoption of the report of Working Group II
	Item 6	Continued

IV. PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK OF WORKING GROUP III

A. Provisional agenda of Working Group III

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. Continuation and conclusion of the discussion on all matters pertaining to the terms of reference of Working Group III, as adopted, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/228.

3. Survey of existing agreements and instruments, and criteria for evaluation.

4. Principles on general rights and obligations.

5. Other legal, institutional and related matters, as well as legal and institutional aspects of cross-sectoral issues, including those referred to Working Group III by Working Groups I and II and the plenary of the Preparatory Committee.

6. Provisional agenda for the third session of Working Group III.

7. Adoption of the report of Working Group III.

Annotations

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

By decison 2/21 A, the Preparatory Committee approved the draft provisional agenda for the second session of Working Group III, in accordance with the resolution adopted by the Preparatory Committee at its organizational session, in particular paragraphs 8 and 9 (see A/44/48, para. 56).

The Bureau of Working Group III comprises the following officers: Chairman: Bedrich Moldan (Czechoslovakia); Vice-Chairman: Oswaldo de Rivero (Peru), Reynaldo Arcilla (Philippines) and Alberto Muchanga (Zambia); Rapporteur: John Sloan (Canada).

Item 2. Continuation and conclusion of the discussion on all matters pertaining to the terms of reference of Working Group III, as adopted, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/228

The General Assembly in resolution 44/228, section I, paragraph 15, identified the objectives of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in the legal and institutional field, including in particular the further development of international environmental law (subpara. (d)), the development or strengthening of appropriate institutions (subpara. (r)) and measures for the prevention and settlement of disputes in the environmental sphere (subpara. (w)).

By decision 2/3, the Preparatory Committee decided to establish an open-ended working group (Working Group III) to assist the Committee in dealing with legal, institutional and all related matters in full conformity with the terms of General Assembly resolution 44/228, and approved detailed terms of reference for the Working Group, as formulated in document A/CONF.151/PC/L.31 and reproduced in the report of the Preparatory Committee on its second session (A/46/48 (Part I), annex I). During the second session of the Preparatory Committee, Working Group III started a preliminary exchange of views on all matters pertaining to its terms of reference and decided to continue and conclude this discussion at the third session of the Preparatory Committee.

Item 3. Survey of existing agreements and instruments, and criteria for evaluation

The Working Group is expected to prepare an annotated list of existing international agreements and international legal instruments in the environmental field, describing their purpose and scope, evaluating their effectiveness and examining possible areas for further development of international environmental law, in the light of the need to integrate environment and development, especially taking into account the special needs and concerns of developing countries.

Following the preliminary exchange of views at the second session of the Preparatory Committee, the Working Group will have before it a note prepared by the secretariat.

Documentation

Note by the secretariat of the Conference containing a survey of existing agreements and instruments, and criteria for evaluation (A/CONF.151/PC/77)

Item 4. Principles on general rights and obligations

The Working Group is expected to examine the feasibility of elaborating principles on general rights and obligations of States and regional economic integration organizations, as appropriate, in the field of environment and development, and consider the feasibility of incorporating such principles in an appropriate instrument/charter/statement/declaration, taking due account of the conclusions of all the regional preparatory conferences.

Following the preliminary exchange of views at the second session of the Preparatory Committee, the Working Group will have before it a note prepared by the secretariat.

Documentation

Note by the secretariat of the Conference containing a check-list of principles on general rights and obligations (A/CONF.151/PC/78)

Item 5. Other legal, institutional and related matters as well as legal and institutional aspects of cross-sectoral issues, including those referred to Working Group III by Working Groups I and II and the plenary of the Preparatory Committee

The Working Group is expected to review ways and means of strengthening cooperation and coordination between the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and non-governmental, regional and global institutions in the field of environment; to review the role and functioning of the United Nations system in the field of environment and development and make recommendations on ways and means of further enhancing coordination and cooperation on environment and development issues in the United Nations system; and to examine and consider strengthening institutional arrangements required for the effective implementation of the conclusions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in the United Nations system.

The Working Group also agreed to consider under this item legal and institutional aspects of cross-sectoral issues, including those referred to Working Group III by Working Groups I and II and the plenary of the Preparatory Committee. Further to the relevant documents already submitted to the Preparatory Committee at its second session by the secretariat and by delegations, the Working Group will have before it a progress report prepared by the secretariat on the development of legal instruments for transboundary waters (in response to a request by Working Group II), as well as an update of the progress report on institutional issues.

Documentation

Progress reports on institutions (A/CONF.151/PC/36 and A/CONF.151/PC/80)

Letter dated 19 March 1991 from the Head of the delegation of Austria, containing a proposal submitted by the PENTAGONALE countries and Poland, regarding a resolution on the prevention of international disputes concerning the environment (A/CONF.151/PC/L.29)

Letter dated 26 March 1991 from the Head of the delegation of Austria containing a proposal submitted by the PENTAGONALE countries and Poland, regarding elements for a resolution on the settlement of international disputes concerning the environment (A/CONF.151/PC/WG.III/L.1)

Progress report prepared by the secretariat of the Conference on the development of legal instruments for transboundary waters (A/CONF.151/PC/79)

Item 6. Provisional agenda for the third session of Working Group III

In the light of the discussions during the third session of the Preparatory Committee, Working Group III is expected to recommend a draft provisional agenda for its third session.

Item 7. Adoption of the report of Working Group III

The Working Group will submit a report to the Preparatory Committee.

B. Proposed programme of work of Working Group III

Week of 19-23 August

Monday, 19 August		
a.m.		Meeting of the Bureau
	Item 1	Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
p.m.	Item 2	Continuation and conclusion of the discussion on all matters pertaining to the terms of reference of Working Group III, as adopted, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/228
Tuesday, 20 August		
a.m.	Item 3	Survey of existing agreements and instruments, and criteria for evaluation
p.m.	Item 3	Continued
Wednesday, 21 August		
a.m.	Item 4	Principles on general rights and obligations
p.m.		Informal consultations
Thursday, 22 August		
a.m.		Informal consultations
p.m.	Item 4	Continued
Friday, 23 August		
a.m.	Item 5	Other legal, institutional and related matters, as well as legal and institutional aspects of cross-sectoral issues, including those referred to Working Group III by Working Groups I and II and the plenary of the Preparatory Committee
p.m.		Informal consultations

Week of 26-30 August

Monday, 26 August

p.m.	Item 5	Continued

Tuesday, 27 August

p.m.	Item 6	Provisional agenda for the third session of Working Group III
	Item 7	Adoption of the report of Working Group III

Wednesday, 28 August

p.m.	Item 7	Continued